

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 00450 01 OF 02 101001Z

12  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 /072 W  
----- 103888

R 081135Z MAR 75  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 604  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
USMISSION NATO  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 450

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB, GW  
SUBJECT: ANALYSIS OF BERLIN ELECTION RESULTS

REF: (A) USBERLIN 402; (B) USBERLIN 315

1. SUMMARY: WHILE CDU PROBABLY WOULD NOT HAVE BECOME  
STRONGEST PARTY HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR LORENZ ABDUCTION, BERLIN  
ELECTION OUTCOME NONETHELESS REPRESENTS CONTINUATION OF  
TREND AWAY FROM SPD ESTABLISHED IN 1974 LAND ELECTIONS.  
ANALYSIS OF RETURNS SUGGESTS THAT THOSE TRADITIONAL SPD  
SUPPORTERS WHO WERE DISSATISFIED WITH PARTY'S PERFORMANCE  
STAYED AWAY FROM POLLS RATHER THAN VOTE FOR OTHER  
PARTIES, ALTHOUGH THOSE DEFECTORS WHO DID VOTE WERE AS  
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PAGE 02 USBERL 00450 01 OF 02 101001Z

INCLINED TO SUPPORT BFD AS CDU. AMONG ISSUES, LAW-AND-

ORDER THEME HAD GREATEST IMPACT, ALTHOUGH ECONOMIC DISSATISFACTION, GENERAL DESIRE FOR CHANGE, AND CONCERN ABOUT FOREIGN WORKERS ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO CDU SUCCESS AND SPD LOSSES. END SUMMARY.

2. PARTICIPATION IN 1975 BERLIN ELECTIONS (87.9 PERCENT) WAS LESS THAN IN 1971 (88.9 PERCENT) BUT GREATER THAN IN 1967 (86.2 PERCENT) BUT FOR LAST-MINUTE INTEREST GENERATED BY LORENZ ABDUCTION, AND FOR SPECIFIC APPEALS TO CITIZENRY TO EXERCISE FRANCHISE AS RESOUNDING RESPONSE TO TERRORISTS, VOTER TURNOUT MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER. AS NOTED REFTEL B, MOOD OF ELECTORATE THROUGHOUT MUCH OF CAMPAIGN PERIOD WAS ONE OF APATHY, WHICH CONTENDING PARTIES WERE HARD PUT TO DISPEL.

3. PRECISE IMPACT OF LORENZ ABDUCTION ON ELECTION OUTCOME IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS. TO ATTRIBUTE CDU GAINS AND SPD LOSSES SOLELY TO THIS EVENT--WHICH SPD CHAIRMAN BRANDT SOUGHT TO DO FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS--WOULD BE MISTAKE, INASMUCH AS TURN TOWARDS CDU HAD LONG BEEN PREDICTED AS CONTINUATION OF TREND SEEN IN HAMBURG, LOWER SAXONY, HESSE, AND BAVARIA ELECTIONS. BASIC FACTORS BEHIND CDU SUCCESS WERE, AS ELSEWHERE, CONCERN OVER OSTENSIBLE DECLINE IN LAW AND ORDER, DISSATISFACTION WITH ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND PROSPECTS, AND WIDESPREAD FEELING THAT SPD NO LONGER IN TOUCH WITH POPULAR MOOD AND ASPIRATIONS. MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT LORENZ ABDUCTION INCREASED CDU VOTE BY NOT MORE THAN 2-3 PERCENT, A SIGNIFICANT ADDITION, NONETHELESS, IN THAT IT ENABLED CDU TO BECOME FOR FIRST TIME STRONGEST PARTY IN BERLIN. EFFECT OF ABDUCTION WAS PROBABLY NOT TO DRAW ACTUAL VOTES AWAY FROM SPD, BUT RATHER, BY DRAMATICALLY UNDERSCORING CDU THEME OF INADEQUATE INTERNAL SECURITY, TO MOBILIZE CONSERVATIVE-LEANING APATHETIC AND UNDECIDED VOTERS TO GO TO POLLS. INDICATIONS ARE THAT ABDUCTION PROBABLY HURT MORE THAN SPD OR FDP, AS WOULD-BE CDU DEFECTORS TENDED TO REMAIN LOYAL TO LORENZ AND HIS PARTY. QUITE ASIDE FROM ELECTION RETURNS, BERLIN CDU IS BOUND TO GAIN STRENGTH AS RESULT OF FACT THAT ITS ONCE RELATIVELY UNKNOWN LEADER, LORENZ, HAS NOW BECOME NATIONAL FIGURE.

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PAGE 03 USBERL 00450 01 OF 02 101001Z

4. WHILE IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT SPD WOULD FALL BELOW 50 PERCENT MARK, LOSS ON ORDER OF 7.7 PERCENT WAS NOT GENERALLY FORESEEN. SPD DID MANAGE TO WIN 44 DIRECT ELECTION CONTESTS AS OPPOSED TO 36 FOR CDU, BUT THIS STILL REPRESENTED SPD LOSS (AND CDU GAIN) OF 16 COMPARED WITH 1971. SPD VOTE DECLINED BY MORE THAN 5 PERCENT IN TEN OF BERLIN'S TWELVE DISTRICTS, WITH PARTICULARLY SHARP

LOSS BEING REGISTERED IN SPD TRADITIONAL WORKER STRONG-  
HOLDS OF WEDDING (10.7 PERCENT), KREUZBERG (10.7 PERCENT)  
AND NEUKOELLN (9.7 PERCENT). WHILE CDU RECORDED  
CORRESPONDING GAINS OF 8 PERCENT, 5.8 PERCENT, AND 6.8  
PERCENT, INDICATIONS ARE THAT SPD LOSSES IN THESE WORKER  
DISTRICTS AND ELSEWHERE WERE PERHAPS AS MUCH RESULT OF  
VOTER ABSTENTION AS DEFECTIONS TO OTHER PARTIES. MANY  
TRADITIONAL SPD SUPPORTERS WHO COULD NOT BRING THEMSELVES  
TO VOTE FOR CDU OR OTHER ALTERNATIVES CHOSE TO VOICE THEIR  
PROTEST AGAINST GROWING UNEMPLOYMENT, URBAN VIOLENCE, RISING  
PRICES, AND SEEMING SPD DISREGARD OF POPULAR CONCERNS BY  
STAYING AWAY FROM POLLS. MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT, BUT  
FOR CHARISMA, DEMONSTRATED LEADERSHIP ABILITY, AND GENERAL  
POPULARITY OF GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ, SPD LOSSES WOULD  
HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER. SPD LEADERS HAVE  
GENERALLY AVOIDED ATTRIBUTING DEBACLE TO LORENZ ABDUCTION,  
AND HAVE INSTEAD EMPHASIZED NEED TO UNDERTAKE RENEWEDED  
ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS AMONG TRADITIONAL BUT DISAFFECTED  
SPD SUPPORTERS.

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PAGE 01 USBERL 00450 02 OF 02 101022Z

15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 /072 W

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 605

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO ZEN/AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 USBERLIN 450

5. FDP WAS PARTICULARLY SATISFIED WITH ELECTION RESULTS. FDP CHAIRMAN LUEDER CLAIMED, WITH SOME JUSTIFICATION, THAT HIS WAS ONLY PARTY TO FULFILL ELECTION OBJECTIVES. WHILE FEW OBSERVERS ANTICIPATED THAT IT WOULD FAIL TO CLEAR 5 PERCENT HURDLE, FDP'S EVENTUAL 7.2 PERCENT SHOWING WAS BETTER THAN GENERALLY PREDICTED AND, IN CONJUNCTION WITH SPD'S SUBSTANTIAL LOSSES, AFFORDED PARTY POSITION OF STRENGTH FOR FORTHCOMING COALITION TALKS WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. READINESS OF LEFTIST-DOMINATED FDP TO FORM COALITION GOVERNMENT WITH SPD--FOR A CONSIDERABLE PRICE OF COURSE--MAY BE REINFORCED BY RELATIVE GAINS REGISTERED BY LEFT-WING OF SPD PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS (ALTHOUGH RIGHT-WING OF PARTY STILL PREDOMINATES).

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PAGE 02 USBERL 00450 02 OF 02 101022Z

6 BFD VOTE OF 3.4 PERCENT CORRESPONDED APPROXIMATELY TO PREDICTIONS OF MOST OBSERVERS. ALTHOUGH, AS NOTED ABOVE, PARTY PROBABLY SUFFERED AS CONSEQUENCE OF LORENZ ABDUCTION. (CDU PRESS SPOKESMAN TROMP NEVERTHELESS CALIMED THAT TWO-THIRDS OF BFD VOTE WAS "STOLEN" FROM CDU.) BFD MADE RELATIVELY STRONG SHOWING IN WORKER DISTRICTS (4.2 PERCENT OF VOTE IN KREUZBERG, 4.0 PERCENT IN NEUKOELLN, AND 3.9 PERCENT IN WEDDING), WHICH MAY WELL REFLECT NATIONALISTIC REACTION IN AREAS AFFECTED MOST BY PRESENCE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF FOREIGN WORKERS AT TIME OF WIDESPREAD JOB INSECURITY AND GENERAL ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY. AS EXPECTED (PARA 3, REF B), COMMUNIST SPLINTER PARTIES FARED POORLY, ALTHOUGH COMBINED VOTE FOR SEW (1.9 PERCENT), KPD (0.7 PERCENT), AND KBW (0.1 PERCENT) SLIGHTLY EXCEEDED 2.3 PERCENT WON BY SEW IN 1971 WHEN IT WAS ONLY COMMUNIST PARTY TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS. GEORGE

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## Message Attributes

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